

BUILTH WELLS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

1944.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1944. This report is prepared on the lines indicated in Circular 49/45 Wales and is therefore again restricted. It should be noted that the restrictions, on grounds of national security, previously imposed on the publication of population figures in the Annual Report, communications to the Press, etc., and on references to activities in connection with war-time industrial, military or other important developments, such as extensions of water supply or sewerage works, or other public utility undertakings, have now been removed.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population Figures. These figures have been supplied by the Registrar General.

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
1500.	1644.	1831.	1730.	1645.	1631.
<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Birthrate.</u>	
1938.....			20.....	13.2.	
1939.....			22.....	14.6.	
1940.....	7.....	9.....	16.....	9.7.	
1941.....	11.....	12.....	23.....	12.6.	
1942.....	11.....	11.....	22.....	12.7.	
1943.....	11.....	11.....	22.....	13.4.	
1944.....	15.....	8.....	23.....	14.1.	
England and Wales, 1944.....				17.6.	

Illegitimate Births. Two of the above births were illegitimate.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			0.....	0.
1939.....			1.....	0.6.
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.6.
1941.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1942.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1943.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	1.8.
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
England & Wales, 1944.....				0.5.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			19.....	12.5.
1939.....			25.....	16.2.
1940.....	13.....	21.....	34.....	20.6.
1941.....	14.....	17.....	31.....	16.8.
1942.....	17.....	11.....	28.....	16.1.
1943.....	19.....	20.....	39.....	23.7.
1944.....	8.....	12.....	20.....	12.2.
England and Wales, 1944.....				11.6.

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<u>Infantile Mortality.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1939.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1940.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1941.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1942.....			3.....	136.
1943.....			3.....	136.
1944.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	43.
England & Wales, 1944.....				46.

<u>Analysis of Causes of Deaths.</u>	<u>Males...3.</u>	<u>Females...12.</u>
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<u>Cause.</u>	<u>M...F.</u>
Tuberculosis.....	1...0.
Cancer Stomach.....	1...0.
Cancer Breast.....	0...1.
Cancer of all other sites.....	0...1.
Intracranial Vascular Lesions.....	1...0.
Heart Disease.....	2...7.
Other circulatory diseases.....	0...1.
Digestive Diseases.....	1...1.
Nephritis.....	1...0.
All other causes.....	1...1.

Infectious Diseases. The following cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year.

9 cases of whooping cough.
2 cases of measles.
3 cases of scarlet fever.

Two of the cases of scarlet fever were removed to Merthyr Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation. During the year the monthly clinics held for the purpose of immunising children against diphtheria were continued. In addition visits were paid by the County Council Health Visiter and advertisements were placed in the local press. The position at the end of the year as regards North Breconshire as a whole is shown by the following.

Estimated number of children between the ages of	<u>1-5.</u>	<u>5-15.</u>
1 and 15 years on 31.12.44.	1589.	3883.

Estimated number of above children who have been immunised by 31.12.44.....	981.	3465.
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Percentages immunised on 31.12.44.....	62%.	89%.
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Child population immunised during the year.....	225.	38.
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Number of cases of diphtheria in children under 15 years notified during the year.....1.

Number of deaths from diphtheria in the year.....0.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in the town in recent years.

Number of cases on the registers at the commencement of year.....	12.
Number of cases added to registers during the year.....	2.
Number of deaths during the year.....	2.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	1.
Number of cases otherwise removed.....	2.
Number of cases left on register at the end of the year.....	9.

Number of notifications in recent years.....	1939...	1.
	1940...	5.
	1941...	3.
	1942...	4.
	1943...	3.
	1944...	2.

Infestation. Rats and Mice.

As a result of the Infestation Order, 1943, a part time Rodent Officer was appointed to deal with the destruction of rats and mice in the town. This official is employed by the three Councils, Builth Urban, Builth Rural and Llanwrtyd Wells Urban.

Water Supplies.

The town is supplied by means of surface water and springs. The surface water is that running into Tycapel reservoir and, in addition, there is a large auxiliary supply at Pantylllyn lake. The spring supplies come from Newry and Hongwynn springs. The reservoir and lake supply after treatment is of good quality being treated by high pressure filters and chlorination whilst in addition the Pantylllyn water passes through a combined limestone rough filter and break pressure tank.

During the year the water was adequate in quantity. Bacteriological examinations of all the sources were made on two occasions during the year. No chemical examinations were made. Considerable work was done during the year to improve the quality of water from the springs and this has resulted in a greatly improved supply.

All the houses in the area are supplied directly with the exception of about 75 houses...12 per cent, which are supplied by standpipes.

The auxiliary supply from Pantyllyn is slightly plumbo solvent at the source but this is removed by passing through the limestone breakpressure tank and limestone magnesite pressure filters.

Milk Samples. During the year milk sampling was carried out in accordance with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. A district laboratory was set up in the town and samples of all producer retailer milk were taken regularly throughout the year by the Sanitary Inspector. All wholesale milk is tested as a routine at the various depots and creameries. Under this scheme milk is graded into three categories, i.e.,

Category A.....Milk of good keeping quality.
Category B.....Milk of doubtful keeping quality.
Category C.....Milk of poor keeping quality which is
returnable to the vendor.

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On the receipt of samples of Category C milk advisory visits are paid to the particular farm by an officer of the War Agricultural Executive Committee and if no improvement occurs as a result of these visits the producer is referred to the Local Authority for any action that may be deemed necessary.

The following figures show the results of the samples taken during the year.

Total samples taken.....	67.
Category A samples.....	56.
Category B samples.....	8.
Category C samples.....	3

No producer was referred to the Council by the Executive Committee during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R.George,

Medical Officer of Health.